

CARR-1572

St. Paul's Reformed Church

Bond Street at Green Street, Westminster

Private

1868-69; 1893; 1923

Summary:

At the close of the Civil War, members of the German Reformed Church in Westminster had to travel 1 ½ miles west of the city in order to worship, at St. Benjamin's (Kreiders) Church. To remedy this, a group formed to build a church and organize a congregation. A building committee was formed in May 1868. That same month a lot was purchased at the corner of Bond and Green Streets for \$800.00. Pastor W.C. Cremer recalled several years later: "On June the 8<sup>th</sup> 1868 the building committee met and resolved to visit Baltimore & [arrive?] some church building and adopt a plan for the new church. In due time a plan was adopted. Messrs, Shorb & Leister were employed as architects, Mr. George Leas Master Carpenter and Christian Awalt master mason + bricklayer, + Hashabiah Haines was chosen to act as Superintendent of the building in concert mit [sic] + by direction of the building committee." They eventually chose a Wren-Gibbs plan with Gothic Revival detailing. The design of the church was certainly not new to Baltimore, but it was to Carroll County, where the first true example was built in 1862-63 by Trinity Reformed Church in Manchester. This was followed by St. John's Catholic and Grace Lutheran Churches, both in Westminster. Shorb was a native of Emmitsburg who had moved to Westminster in the early 1860's and eventually partnered with Leister in the design and construction of both furniture and buildings. Because St. Paul's was a new congregation, the building committee employed an interesting and unusual arrangement for Carroll County in the nineteenth century. Rather than build a small, traditional, conservative church at little expense, they chose to build one that was large and elaborate for its time and place. Since they were not assured of their endeavor, though, they did not build all at once. Rather, they constructed the entire shell, but finished only the lower story lecture room first. The lecture hall was dedicated on June 1, 1869, and it was resolved to complete the church in August 1869. The church was completed that year at a cost of \$16,500.

After completion of the church a parsonage was constructed. This is apparently the brick dwelling at the corner of Bond Street and the alley, and is no longer owned by the church. In 1893 St. Paul's moved to construct a new parsonage. Harry Case, a well known Westminster house builder, was given the contract for the price of \$2,559. The house is essentially a traditional central passage, double pile plan, with the rooms on one side pushed forward into a projecting bay. However, the design and finish, especially of the exterior, is not at all traditional. Nominally Queen Anne in influence, the house design was probably taken from one of the numerous pattern books available in the late-nineteenth century and has certain affinities with designs by R. W. Shoppell, whose books were popular in Carroll County in the 1880's and 90's.

The church has undergone numerous changes. In 1893, as they were planning to build the new parsonage, a tornado brought the steeple down into the church yard. The minute books report: "When it was wrenched from its brick base, three of the large cap stones which

ornamented the brick work were loosened and fell, crashing through the roof and ceiling of the church into the organ loft. The roof of the church was much damaged also by part of the roof of Mr. Bankert's house being carried upon it. Many of the enameled glass windows were broken by the force of the wind and by pieces of timber and slate being brushed against them." The church consistory decided against rebuilding the steeple, noting that "the high steeple, whilst it was an ornament to the church, was also a menace." Instead, a committee was appointed to repair the roof "and to secure a plan for finishing the tower of the church." This tower still survives. In 1923 a major interior renovation was completed. Much of the interior finishes seen today date to this period, and transformed the church from a typically plain Gothic Revival structure of the mid-nineteenth century to the more elaborate Gothic Revival typical of the first quarter of the twentieth century. The renovations were designed by the DeLong Furniture Co. of Philadelphia, architectural decorators and furnishers. The last significant changes to the church came in 1957. A new, fifteen foot wide section was added to the end of the church, enabling the chancel to be deepened, and an 8 foot diameter rose window was placed here. In addition, a connection was made from the church to the brick house known as the Royer property, and that building was thoroughly remodeled.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF**  
**HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. CARR-1572

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Paul's German Reformed Church

and/or common St. Paul's United Church of Christ (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Bond & Green Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Westminster ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. Paul's United Church of Christ

street & number Bond & Green Streets telephone no.: (410) 848-5975

city, town Westminster state and zip code Maryland 21157

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio

city, town Westminster state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attached

## 8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1572

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868-9; 1893; 1923 Builder/Architect J. J. Shorb

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attached

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Attached

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27,900 sq. ft.Quadrangle name WestminsterQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Plannerorganization Carroll County Planning & Develop date May 26, 1999street & number 225 North Center Street telephone (410) 386-2145city or town Westminster state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438~~

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description

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St. Paul's German Reformed Church, now St. Paul's United Church of Christ, is located on Bond Street at the corner of Green Street, in Westminster, in central Carroll County Maryland. The church complex consists of four buildings, a brick church constructed in 1868-69, a brick parsonage constructed in 1893, a brick fellowship hall (formerly known as the parish house), that was constructed in 1949 and is connected to the church, and a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick house known as the Royer House that is now connected to the fellowship hall.

The church has a rubble stone foundation, walls of six, seven, nine and ten-to-one-common bond brick, buttresses between each bay, and a slate gabled roof with a ridge that runs north-south. The church is a Wren-Gibbs plan structure, with its entrance facade facing north toward Bond Street, and a chancel on the south end of the building. The north elevation is three bays, the center bay having a projecting brick tower and spire. There is a date stone in the lower west corner that is carved "August 30, 1868." The end bays of the lower story have one-over-one sash of stained glass, and those of the upper story have stained glass lancet windows. All of these windows have brick label moulds with stone stops. There is a moulded brick water table between the first and second stories. There are brick buttresses with stone weatherings at the corners of the building and at the corners of the tower, and the building has a corbelled brick cornice. The lower story of the tower has double doors with a lancet transom. Above this transom is brick corbeling and a large stained glass lancet window. The top of the tower has been rebuilt in brick, with a hip roof of slate covering a belfrey with three open arcades on each elevation. Below these arcades are two trefoil lancets, with a wood filled oculus above them, and corbeling above the oculus.

The west elevation, which faces Green Street, has five bays with blind openings in the north bay. The remaining bays have a six-over-six sash on the first story and stained glass lancet windows on the second story. They have the same labels, watertable, and corbeling as the north elevation, but the stops are not of stone, they are of brick. The sills are of stone. The east elevation also has blind openings in the north bay. The lower story of the north-center bay has a door with a stone sill, but otherwise the details are the same as those on the west elevation. The brick fellowship hall is attached to the lower story at the south-center and the south bays of the east elevation, and is attached to the south elevation of the church.

The lower story vestibule has a quarry tile floor with a cross in the center of Mercer tiles. These tiles are tan with yellow or green religious symbols in them. The floor also has strips of verde antique marble inlay. There are dog-leg stairs on the east and west sides of the vestibule, each of which has a large turned post, turned balusters and a moulded handrail. There are arched openings in the sides of the tower that the stairs pass through. The vestibule has a run plaster cornice. Under each stair is a small room with leaded glass door and a leaded transom. The east room below the stairway has a cork tile floor. There are matching double doors with a fan light on the south elevation of the vestibule that lead into a chapel in the center of the lower story.

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The chapel is finished in Colonial Revival fittings and on each side are three segmentally-arched windows. There are white paneled pews and a white Colonial Revival altar. The lectern and pulpit are Gothic Revival furnishings that are painted white. There are also two Gothic Revival chairs in a natural finish. There is a modern kitchen to the south of the chapel, one room to the east of the chapel, two rooms to the west of the chapel and another room to the west of the kitchen.

The upper story lobby on the north end is carpeted and has a run plaster cornice. The north wall has leaded glass, with two Tudor-arched doors and a frieze above of quatrefoils. Beyond this lobby screen is a stairway to the choir loft that has simple turned balusters. On the south side of the lobby are center double doors of leaded glass with lancet tops, and smaller single lancet topped doors with leaded glass to each side. These doorways lead to the sanctuary.

The sanctuary has a cork tiled floor with carpeting in the aisles. The wood pews have foliate carving along the arms and a shield in the center of each end. Beneath the windows are large heating registers. The windows have moulded plaster architraves consisting of a large torus in the center with an ovolo on the outside and an ogee on the inside. There are five walnut hammer beam trusses with center drop pendants supporting the ceiling. There is a bold walnut ogee cornice with frescoing in the frieze. The chancel has a walnut railing, lectern, and pulpit, and a marble baptismal font dated "1870." There is a large lancet arch with Gothic collonettes of plaster on either side of this arch, at the south-end of the sanctuary. The chancel has half paneling of triple arches, apparently in walnut, and an altar with the same arches and a projecting hood. Above the altar is a rose window with Christ in the center and the twelve apostles around him. There are secret doors in panels on the east and west sides of the chancel that lead to small rooms on either side. There are also new double doors on the south elevation, east and west of the chancel that lead to these same small rooms. Above the doors are recessed blind lancet arches with frescoing.

The choir loft contains a Moeller three manual organ, apparently dated "1941." The north wall of the loft is paneled. The stairs continue up from the choir loft to a landing in the tower. There is a ladder up from this landing to a second landing and a second ladder that leads to the belfry. There is also a small doorway from the lower landing in the tower that leads into the roof above the sanctuary. The roof is supported by a scissor truss that has had metal plates added at the joints, and metal tie-rods.

The cellar was originally just a crawl space but has been partially excavated for a furnace. There are two interior rubble stone walls that run north-south. The joists run east-west and are sash sawn. They are 3 inches wide by 7 3/4 inches deep and are spaced 15 1/4 to 17 inches on centers. There is bridging between the joists that is fastened with cut nails. The circular sawn flooring above runs north-south. The joists are set into pockets in the brick wall and they rest on one course of brick set on top of the stone foundation wall.



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The parsonage, which is now called the parish house, is located at 17 Bond Street. It is a four bay by four bay, 2 ½ story brick structure with running bond on the north elevation and 6 to 1 common bond on the other elevations. On the north elevation, the east bay has a projecting two story bay with a small window opening in the basement, paired one-over-one double hung sash with wood sills and lintels in both the first and second stories, and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The west elevation of this bay has a one-over-one sash with wood sill and splayed brick jack arch on the first and second stories. The three other bays of the first story have a one-light door with a one light transom and a bolection-moulded architrave in the east-center bay, and one-over-one sash with wood sills and splayed brick jack arches in the west-center and west bays. These three bays are covered by a one story shed roof porch with four turned posts that have simple brackets. On the second story the east-center bay has paired narrow one-over-one sash with wood sills and lintels. The west-center and west bays have one-over-one sash identical to the first story. Above these three bays is a gabled wall dormer that has triple sash, each with a Queen Anne stained glass light over one light. Four brackets support a projecting gable end that has sawtooth wood shingles. The remainder of the gable has fish scale shingles with two diamonds set amidst them. Behind this gable is a taller gable that has paired sash, each with a Queen Anne stained glass window over a single light, and three brackets supporting a projecting gable hood that has sawtooth shingles. The remainder of this gable has shingles with clipped corners. The cornice has uncut blocks.

The west elevation has no openings in the north bay. The two center bays have a one-over-one sash on both the first and second stories. These windows have wood sills and splayed brick jack arches. Over the south-center bay is a gabled wall dormer. It has a triple sash, each sash having a Queen Anne stained glass light over a single light. The shingles in this gable have clipped corners and there are four brackets supporting the projecting gable hood that contains sawtooth shingles. The south bay is recessed and is on the south wing of the house. The first story has a door to the north with a conical porch roof support by wood brackets. The second story has a typical one-over-one sash set to the south.

The two west bays of the south elevation, are recessed, as they exist on the main block of the house. The first story has a typical one-over-one sash in the west bay and a four panel door with a two-light transom in the west-center bay. The second story has a typical one-over-one sash in the west bay and a bricked-in door opening in the west-center bay that is partly covered by the conical porch roof. The gable end above has alternating courses of all three patterns of shingles and has a two-over-two double-hung sash over the west-center bay. The south elevation of the wing has two one-light casements and a typical one-over-one sash on the first story. The second story has no openings in the east-center bay and a typical one-over-one sash in the east bay. The gable end of the wing has plain shingles and a one-light sash.

The east elevation has four typical one-over-one sash on both the first and second stories. There is a gabled wall dormer over the north bay that contains paired sash, each with a Queen

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Anne stained glass sash over a single light. The wood shingles have clipped corners. There are three brackets supporting a projecting hood above the windows that has sawtooth shingles. The east elevation of the projecting bay on the north has a typical one-over-one sash on both the first and second stories.

The parsonage cellar has a center stone wall set to the west side of the passage that runs north-south. Part of this wall was removed and replaced by a CMU wall further to the west, when the cellar stairs were added. The joists were cut through and a new header of 2 by 4's was added. The western half of the cellar is a crawl space; the eastern half of the cellar has been excavated over one foot additional to get extra head room. The joists here are circular sawn and run east-west. They are approximately 2 by 8's spaced 13 to 17 inches on centers and have bridging with wire nails. The flooring above is circular sawn, 3 ½ inch wide boards that run north-south. The south end joists have been replaced, as has the floor.

The parsonage has a center-passage, double-pile plan with a single room in a wing to the rear. The architraves used here are typically three beads in the center and have bullseye corner blocks. The doors to the front rooms have been replaced. The passage has a straight run of stairs along the west wall and the stairway has an open stringer, turned balusters that were originally varnished but are now painted white, and a pine handrail that is now varnished but appears was originally painted. There is a square pine newel that is chamfered and has three flutes on each side as well as bosses on each side on the top of each face. It also has a heavily moulded cap. The rear of the passage originally had a bathroom and closet, but has now been altered to have a closet and a door to the southern-most room.

The northwest room has a fireplace in the southeast corner with a marbleized slate mantel that is painted black with red and white veining. This mantel has several incised lines and circles. The northeast room has a bay window on the north with interior shutters and blinds. There was a corner fireplace in the southwest but the mantel is now gone. The south elevation has a doorway to the southeast room. The southeast room has oak flooring that runs east-west and is 1 ½ inches wide. There is a corner cupboard in the southeast that has a semicircular-arched doorway with twelve lights below a fanlight arch. At the bottom is a two-panel door. The southwest room has a door on the south elevation that leads to the exterior. The south room has been converted to a modern kitchen and has all new trim.

The second story has the same plan as the first story. The passage has 3 ½ inch wide pine flooring that runs north-south. The northwest chamber has a closet on the south wall, set to the east. In the center of this wall is a doorway to the southwest chamber. The southwest chamber has a closet on the north wall, set to the west. The northeast chamber also has a closet on the south wall, set to the east, and a doorway in the center that leads to the southeast chamber. The southeast chamber has a closet on the north wall, set to the west, and a doorway on the south wall that leads to the south chamber. All of the doors here are the same four-panel doors that were

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originally varnished. The south chamber is divided into three rooms with a vestibule in the northwest corner, a bathroom in the southwest corner that has a cast iron sink, and a chamber in the east half with a door that leads to the attic stairs. There is a door from the passage that leads to the vestibule of the south chamber.

The attic has a dog-leg stair. There are two finished rooms to the west. The southwest attic room is plastered, and the northwest attic room has pressed board siding, some of it with wood grain and wood battens over the joints. The rafters are sash sawn 2 by 8's, spaced about 2 feet on centers. They are lapped in the center of the span and nailed together. There are collar beams nailed at the top of these lap joints and there also knee wall studs. The roof framing is fastened with wire nails and supports solid board sheathing.

The fellowship hall is a five-bay by five-bay, one-story structure on a raised foundation. It is built of running-bond brick and has a gable roof with an east-west ridge over the four easternmost bays. The west bay has a parapet that hides the lower roof where it connects to the church. The northeast corner has a date stone marked "St. Paul's Church Parish House 1949." The north elevation has a doorway in the east bay and two six-light casements over a four-light sash in each of the remaining four bays. Each window has a brick label mould.

The Royer House faces west onto Green Street and is connected on the north end to a portion of the fellowship hall. The main block of the house is a two story, three bay by one bay structure with an ell on the rear or east and a projecting one bay square addition on the south where the main block and the ell join. The foundation is parged, the west elevation has running bond brick, and the north and south elevations have five to one common bond brick. There is a gable roof with a north-south ridge.

The west elevation has three one-over-one double hung sash on the first story that have wood sills and wood cornices with brackets and dentils between the brackets. The center and south bays have shutters, while the north bay is a closed off doorway that still retains the outline of the door trim. This trim was taller and wider than the existing cornice. This cornice was apparently added later to match the originals in the other two bays. The second story has three four-over-four double hung sash with cornices like the first story but without dentils. The cornice on the house has large paired sawn brackets with dentils between them and the cornice has returns. The roof has standing seam metal. There is an interior brick chimney on the south gable end that is parged with fake brick. The south elevation has no openings.

The projecting one-bay square addition is two stories and has a gable roof of standing seam metal with a north-south ridge, and a wood box cornice with returns. On the west elevation, the first story has a door opening with glass block infill. There is a ghost of a pilaster, probably to support a porch. The second story has a four-over-four double hung sash with a wood sill and a splayed brick jack arch. The south elevation is six to one common bond brick and has a typical

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one-over-one sash on the first and second stories. The east elevation of this wing has a cellar bulk head, a typical four-over-four sash on the first story, and no opening on the second story. The back building or ell is also of brick and is two stories tall, with a gable roof with standing seam metal that has an east-west ridge. The south elevation has five-to-one common bond. The first story has a six-over-six double hung sash with a wood sill and a splayed brick jack arch. The second story has the same but with no arch. The east elevation of the back building is covered in a brick pattern concrete and is apparently an enclosed porch. There is a new door in the south bay and another new door on the second story in the north bay. There is a four light sash in the gable end.

The west cellar was originally a crawl space that was later excavated. The joists are mill sawn and run north-south. They are 3 inches wide by 6 3/4 to 7 inches deep, and are spaced 23-27 inches on centers. They have bridging with cut nails. The flooring above runs east-west and is sash sawn; it is 4 3/4 inches to 5 3/4 inches wide. There is a summer beam in the center of the cellar and it runs east-west. It has two log post's under it and the joists lap over top of the summer beam. The eastern half of the cellar has two rooms divided by a rubble stone wall with a doorway in it. The southeast cellar joists run north-south. They are circular sawn, and are 1 3/4 inches wide by 8 inches deep, and are spaced 14 3/4 to 17 inches on centers. They have bridging with wire nails. There is 2 1/2 inch wide flooring above that runs east-west. The original altar is stored here in the cellar and has Gothic trefoil panels that are painted white. The west elevation has a stone foundation, probably originally for a fireplace. The stairway is off the east elevation.

The north-west room has a fireplace that is now closed off centered on the east wall. It has a wood mantel with fluted Corinthian columns and a bell flower wreath with swags on the frieze. There is a doorway on the north that leads to the fellowship hall and a door on the east wall that leads to the northeast room. This latter door has four panels, with sunk fields and quirked ogee and beveled panel moulds. The northeast room has a radiator on the west wall that is cast iron, has foliate decoration, and is marked "Richmond H. CO." On the east wall is a four panel door with ogee panel moulds. The south room has double doors on the west elevation, set to the north. These doors have ten lights over one lying panel and lead to the northwest room. On the north wall are double pocket doors that will not open.

The eastern wing or back building has a chimney stack centered on the west wall. The fireplace is closed off and there is no mantel. To the north is a built in cupboard with beaded-edge-and-center vertical board doors. There is an enclosed winder stair to the cellar and the second story in the southwest corner.

The northwest chamber is now two steps up from the floor level of the northeast chamber and it appears the floor was raised. There is a doorway on the north elevation. The northeast chamber has a closet in the northeast corner. The door has been altered so that it can open around a later radiator. The south chamber has a wide opening on the north wall that leads to the

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northeast chamber. There is no sign of any doors here. To the west of this opening is a closet with two four-panel doors. The wing chamber is divided in two and there is a bathroom in the south end that has beaded-edge-and-center vertical board half wainscot. There is a four panel door and an enclosed stairway that leads to the attic.

The attic stairs are wall-papered and have vertical circular sawn lath with wire nails and plaster. There is a stair landing with a straight run of stairs up to the north. There are marks of lath and plaster on the bottom side of the south wall plate that indicate that this area was originally sealed and that the stairway must be a later addition. The west wall of the attic stair is brick with three put-log holes at joist level. One course above the put-log holes there is a recessed mortar joint for roof flashing. The holes may be for a porch roof that originally stood here. The excretion of dirt on the brick wall also indicates that this was originally an exterior wall. There is also a chimney on this wall that is parged and has flashing on the south side and higher up on the east side. This chimney no longer penetrates the roof. The rafters over the east wing are 2 by 4's that are sash sawn and are mitered at the ridge and fastened with wire nails. A hole has been knocked through the brick wall to gain access to the west attic. The western brick wall of the south addition is clearly toothed in to the eastern brick wall of the main block of the house. In the northeast attic, the rafters are sash sawn and are mitered at the ridge. They are 3 inches wide by 3 1/4 inches deep and are spaced 22 to 25 inches on centers. In the western attic the rafter feet are miter cut and rest on top of floor joists. About 10 feet west of the east wall of the main block the floor level is raised up a foot or more. It appears the ceiling was raised in the room below.

Contributing resources: 3

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Significance

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At the close of the Civil War, members of the German Reformed Church in Westminster had to travel 1 ½ miles west of the city in order to worship, at St. Benjamin's (Kreiders) Church. To remedy this, a group formed to build a church and organize a congregation. A building committee was formed in May 1868, led by David H. Shriver and Augustus Shriver. That same month a lot was purchased at the corner of Bond and Green Streets for \$800.00. Pastor W.C. Cremer recalled several years later:

On June the 8<sup>th</sup> 1868 the building committee met and resolved to visit Baltimore & [arrive?] some church building and adopt a plan for the new church. In due time a plan was adopted. Messrs, Shorb & Leister were employed as architects, Mr. George Leas Master Carpenter and Christian Awalt master mason + bricklayer, + Hashabiah Haines was chosen to act as Superintendent of the building in concert mit [sic] + by direction of the building committee.

There are several aspects of this account which are notable, one being that the committee traveled to Baltimore for inspiration for their design. They eventually chose a Wren-Gibbs plan with Gothic Revival detailing. The design of the church was certainly not new to Baltimore, but it was to Carroll County, where the first true example was built in 1862-63 by Trinity Reformed Church in Manchester. This was followed by St. John's Catholic and Grace Lutheran Churches, both in Westminster. The latter, more Romanesque in design and without a tower, was built by contractor J.J. Shorb, who may have been responsible for the design.

Shorb was a native of Emmitsburg who had moved to Westminster in the early 1860's and eventually partnered with Leister in the design and construction of both furniture and buildings. His star certainly seemed to be on the rise, and the St. Paul's commission was probably the most important of his career, to date. But while the influences for the building were coming from Baltimore, the ultimate source of the design did not. This is in contrast to several other churches in Westminster from the 1850's and 1860's that were designed by Baltimore architects.

Because St. Paul's was a new congregation, the building committee employed an interesting and unusual arrangement for Carroll County in the nineteenth century. Rather than build as small, traditional, conservative church at little expense, they chose to build one that was large and elaborate for its time and place. Since they were not assured of their endeavor, though, they did not build all at once. The cornerstone was laid in August and apparently the brick walls were taken to their full height. The building was under roof by the first of November, but only the lower story lecture room was completed; it was dedicated on June 1, 1869. The construction was not without incident. In December 1868 "John Wilhelm, a carpenter, employed on the new German Reformed Church, fell from the scaffold . . . a distance of fifty feet, and escaped with a slight injury, only breaking one of the small bones of the arm."

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It was resolved to complete the church in August 1869, and "Shorb & Leister were employed as carpenters, Gersham Huff as plasterer, Ault + McEvoy as Gas-fitters of Baltimore + Moore + Landbeck of Baltimore as Frescoers." The absence of the mention of a bricklayer suggests that all the masonry work was complete. The church was completed in 1869 at a cost of \$16,500. The congregation had not raised the entire sum and borrowed \$2,000 at 6 % interest in order to pay off some of the pressing claims.

The church was carefully and rather thoroughly described in the early 1880's:

The main building is forty-six by seventy feet on the flank wall with a pulpit recess of six by eighteen feet making the entire length of the building from the outside wall of the tower to that of the pulpit recess eighty-three feet. The building has a basement ten feet high, with an audience-chamber eighteen feet deep on the flank wall and thirty-one and a half in the center. The style of architecture is modern Gothic, with traces of a composite nature. The front and tower are supported by pilasters, capped with the Gettysburg granite. The brick work is adorned with pinnacles, and a spire sixty feet in height, making the entire height of tower and spire one hundred and twenty six feet. The windows Gothic, with stained and frosted glass.

An early pastor of Kreider's Church added that each of the windows "...bears inscribed upon it one of the ten commandments, with the name of the donor. Above they bear appropriate emblems, among which are the Bible, the Cross, the Crown, the Lamb, the Anchor, etc. The central window in front, with the transom below, is especially beautiful. The former has as its emblems the Cross, the Dove, and the All-Seeing Eye; the latter the Baptismal Font and the Sacramental Cup...."

The pastor described the ceiling of the church as "...a four-centered Gothic arch. In this will be placed the two reflectors, by which the church is to be illuminated, each 36 inches in diameter, and each bearing 38 jets." By the early 1880's, if not originally, this ceiling was... "ornamented with panel, stucco, and fresco-work." Most likely the panels were painted onto the plasterwork, and not modelled into it. More description of the interior finishes is given by Pastor Ulric:

The floor is richly carpeted; the pews, the chancel railing, reading-desk, pulpit, and etc., all of solid walnut. At the right of the chancel, upon the walls, is inscribed in Gothic letters, the Apostles' Creed, and on the left the Lord's Prayer. The lettering is particularly well executed Surrounding the arch above the pulpit, is the

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inscription, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple, Let All the Earth Keep Silence Before Him". The altar occupies the central position and stands against the wall of the recess, on a slight elevation from the pulpit platform. It is a white, with a carved, gilt chalice on its front. Over it, at the apex of the arch, is a dove, representing the hovering presence of the Spirit. To the left of the altar, and in front, stands the pulpit; to the right, the reading-desk. Both are of exquisite workmanship. The pulpit is octagonal, with Gothic paneling. The reading-desk bears the gilt letters I.H.S., and, in its triangular construction, is emblematic of the Trinity. Steps lead from the altar into the chancel, at the central entrance of which, upon the left, outside the railing, stands the baptismal font, which is presented by the baptized children. This is entirely of marble, octagonal in shape, quite massive and exceedingly beautiful.

The bell, made by McNeely Bell Founders of West Troy, New York, was placed in the tower in 1871 as a memorial by Jesse Reifsnider.

After completion of the church a parsonage was constructed. This is apparently the brick dwelling at the corner of Bond Street and the alley, and is no longer owned by the church. When Kreiders Church was separated from the Westminster charge in 1892 the parsonage, which was jointly owned, had to be sold. St. Paul's agreed to bid up to \$1300 for it, but it was sold to Kreiders for \$1500 and rented back to St. Paul's at \$10 a month. In November of that year a meeting was held "...to decide the question of a new parsonage." In February 1893 "the building committee reported a plan and specifications for the parsonage, which were accepted and approved. The committee was instructed to secure a bid for the building." Harry Case, a well known Westminster house builder, was given the contract and articles of agreement were drawn up.

The construction of the parsonage was not detailed in the minutes. The only issue that arose was the proposition of the pastor that a steam heater be placed in the new building. This was accepted, with the proviso that he "...agrees to pay interest on plant during his stay as pastor." A few notes from local papers shed a little light on the house. The contracted price for the house was \$2,559, and excavation of the foundation began in mid-April. By the nineteenth of the month mason Adam Rickle was laying the foundation, and the brickwork was completed by the middle of May. The house is essentially a traditional central passage, double pile plan, with the rooms on one side pushed forward into a projecting bay. However, the design and finish, especially of the exterior, is not at all traditional. Nominally Queen Anne in influence, the house design was probably taken from one of the numerous pattern books available in the late-nineteenth century and has certain affinities with designs by Shoppell, whose books were popular in Carroll County in the 1880's and 90's.



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Few changes were made to the parsonage. A smoke house was added in 1899; it no longer survives. The following year a hitching post was placed in front of the parsonage, but it, too, is gone. In 1907 a range was purchased for the building at a cost of \$42.00. In the past decade the pastor has moved out of the building, and it has since been converted to offices and meeting rooms for the church.

The church on the other hand has undergone numerous changes. Originally warmed by coal-fed stoves, there were periodic complaints over the building being cold in winter. A decision was made in 1884 to convert to a furnace, but this seems not to have been acted upon until 1891, when a steam furnace was installed. No doubt the change was well received, and likely prompted the pastor to push for the same treatment in the parsonage two years later. An organ was purchased from Johnson & Son of Boston in 1890, at a cost of about \$1200. A new slate roof was laid on the church in 1888. The congregation could not know it at the time, but their timing was not good. Five years later, as they were planning to build the new parsonage, a tornado brought the steeple down into the church yard. The minute books report:

When it was wrenched from its brick base, three of the large cap stones which ornamented the brick work were loosened and fell, crashing through the roof and ceiling of the church into the organ loft. The roof of the church was much damaged also by part of the roof of Mr. Bankert's house being carried upon it. Many of the enameled glass windows were broken by the force of the wind and by pieces of timber and slate being brushed against them.

Fortunately, the new organ was not damaged. The church consistory decided against rebuilding the steeple, noting that "the high steeple, whilst it was an ornament to the church, was also a menace." The steeple was more than just an ornament to the church. As early as October 1869, while it was apparently still under construction, *The Westminster American Sentinel* noted: "The spires of the new M.P. and German Reformed Churches, are approaching completion, and it is now plainly apparent that both will present a very beautiful appearance. They can be seen distinctly at the distance of several miles from the city." Instead, a committee was appointed to repair the roof "and to secure a plan for finishing the tower of the church." The design was accepted in June 1893, and the work began in early August. A local correspondent noted that "an entire change in the style will be made. The tower will be raised sixteen feet and will be surmounted by a large cross." This tower still survives. The original steeple can be seen in an engraved view. In 1899 the interior was re-frescoed by Emmart & Quartly, a Baltimore firm that specialized in frescoing church interiors.

In 1905 the lecture hall was refurbished. *The Westminster American Sentinel* reported: "The wood work has been painted, the walls frescoed and the floors carpeted. The frescoing is a beautiful and artistic piece of work reflecting credit upon the skill and taste of the artist, Mr.

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Meade Ohler, of this city. The ceiling is a pure white and the walls are of pearl color with a dado of fawn color. A band of ornamental work above the dado and at the top of the walls adds very much to the beauty and brings out very strikingly the delicacy of the coloring." To date the changes to the building had been small or unplanned. That changed in 1923, when a major interior renovation was completed. Much of the interior finishes seen today date to this period, and transformed the church from a typically plain Gothic Revival structure of the mid-nineteenth century to the more elaborate Gothic Revival typical of the first quarter of the twentieth century. The extensive and detailed description of the changes, printed in the newspaper for the re-dedication of the church, is worthy of quoting at length.

Entrance and Vestibule

New entrance doors, with leaded glass panels, and flanked by solid bronze and alabaster glass lanterns greeted the congregation. The main vestibule has been treated with Travertine stone finish on walls, the ceiling embellished with ornamental plaster mouldings and the floor laid in English quarry tile with a border of Verde antique marble. A centerpiece is inlaid in this floor composed of hand-made Moravian tiles, in the form of a cross. Very convenient and nicely treated retiring rooms were built under the stairways in this vestibule. New doors with leaded and stained glass panels lead to the Sunday school rooms from the vestibule.

Changes In Sunday School Rooms

The Sunday school rooms are treated in old ivory tones on walls, and windows glazed with English hand hammered Cathedral glass. Curtains of appropriate color are hung at the windows giving the rooms a very home-like appearance. In the main room a new rostrum has been built and new specially designed tables and chairs installed. The primary and beginners room have been entirely re-equipped and present a most cheerful appearance.

The second floor vestibule has floor covered with genuine cork. A choir vestry room has been built in the vestibule by a walnut screen with leaded glass panels. In this screen has been incorporated a very convenient usher's seat.

New Main Auditorium

The main auditorium shows the greatest changes of all, and is undoubtedly the most beautiful auditorium of any Reformed church in the state.

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The walls of this room are treated in reproduction of Travertine stone. This is the first time that this method has been attempted in a church auditorium in the state. The ceiling has been beautified by addition of walnut Gothic trusses. From these trusses are suspended solid bronze light fixtures, which were especially designed for this church.

The windows are glazed with Mosaic type opalescent leaded glass, and are framed with ornamental plaster mouldings. Under the windows radiators are recessed, and are hidden from view by wood and bronze grilled covers. The floors are covered all over with natural cork tile.

Chancel Improvements

The chancel has been completely changed, by adding new ornamental arches-changes in platforms and communion rail. A new altar and veredos [sic] with paneled wainscoting, - all in Gothic style and in genuine walnut wood have been installed. The lighting fixtures has some unique features. The main fixtures can be controlled from three circuits. The chancel is lighted by two different circuits, from a soft to a floor light. The Reredos of the alar has a canopy over the cross and in this canopy is a special light for cross. A system of signal lights has been installed from chancel to organist, and to ushers seat.

Those Responsible For Work

The renovations were in charge of the DeLong Furniture Co., Philadelphia architectural decorators and furnishers, and under the personal supervisor of the president of the company, Ellwood F. DeLong, by whom all plans were made, and the work extended. The carpenter work was in charge of and creditably carried out by Edward Mancha; the electric wiring by Charles Brown, the painting, John Stonesifer and Samuel Helm; the heating and hardware by Westminster Hardware CO., all from Westminster.

The Sunday school rooms were again changed in 1950 when the Parish House was added to the church. This new building contained a nursery, kindergarten, primary room, club room, kitchen, fellowship hall, and new boiler room. In addition, "the central section of the former lecture room has been transformed into a beautiful colonial chapel with colonial pews, altar, reredos, paneling and lighting. The chapel floor will be covered with a red carpet made from the previous floor covering which originally came from the sanctuary."

The last significant changes to the church came in 1957, when "the whole structure of the building was strengthened by placing nine tons of steel on the trusses and building a buttress in the wall." A new, fifteen foot wide section was added to the end of the church, enabling the chancel to be deepened, and an 8 foot diameter rose window was placed here. The window was designed

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and manufactured by Rambusch, of New York, and is called "Christ in Glory." A new pulpit, lecturn, and altar railing were added. Where the Apostles' Creed and Lord's prayer tablets had been, flanking the chancel and covered over by paneling in 1923, the paneling was removed and doors were cut through. In addition, a connection was made from the church to the brick house known as the Royer property, and that building was thoroughly remodeled.

George W. Matthews laid out Belle Grove Square in the 1870's and sold off the adjacent lots to prospective builders. The Royer House was constructed by 1877, as indicated by a map from that year. In its original configuration the house was a side passage plan with a single room in the main block and two rooms and a projecting pantry in the rear ell. There was a two story side porch set between the main block and the pantry, a typical form for dwellings in Carroll County. Behind the ell was a one story outbuilding, privy or smokehouse. Between 1904 and 1910 a two-story porch was added to the rear of the ell. Then, between 1910 and 1918 the side porch was dismantled and a projecting brick wing added to the side in its place, with a small porch on the front. At a later date the rear porch was enclosed. The greatest changes occurred after the house was acquired by St. Paul's and attached to the parish house in 1949-50. The church does not have records of the alterations, but side windows were converted to doors. The front door was likely converted to a window then, and floor and ceiling levels were changed in the house. Also, the stairway was likely removed at that time.

**Geographic Organization:**

Piedmont

**Chronological/Development Periods:**

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

**Historic Period Themes:**

Architecture, Religion

**Resource Types:**

Church, parsonage, urban dwelling

**Known Design Source:**

J. J. Shorb

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1572

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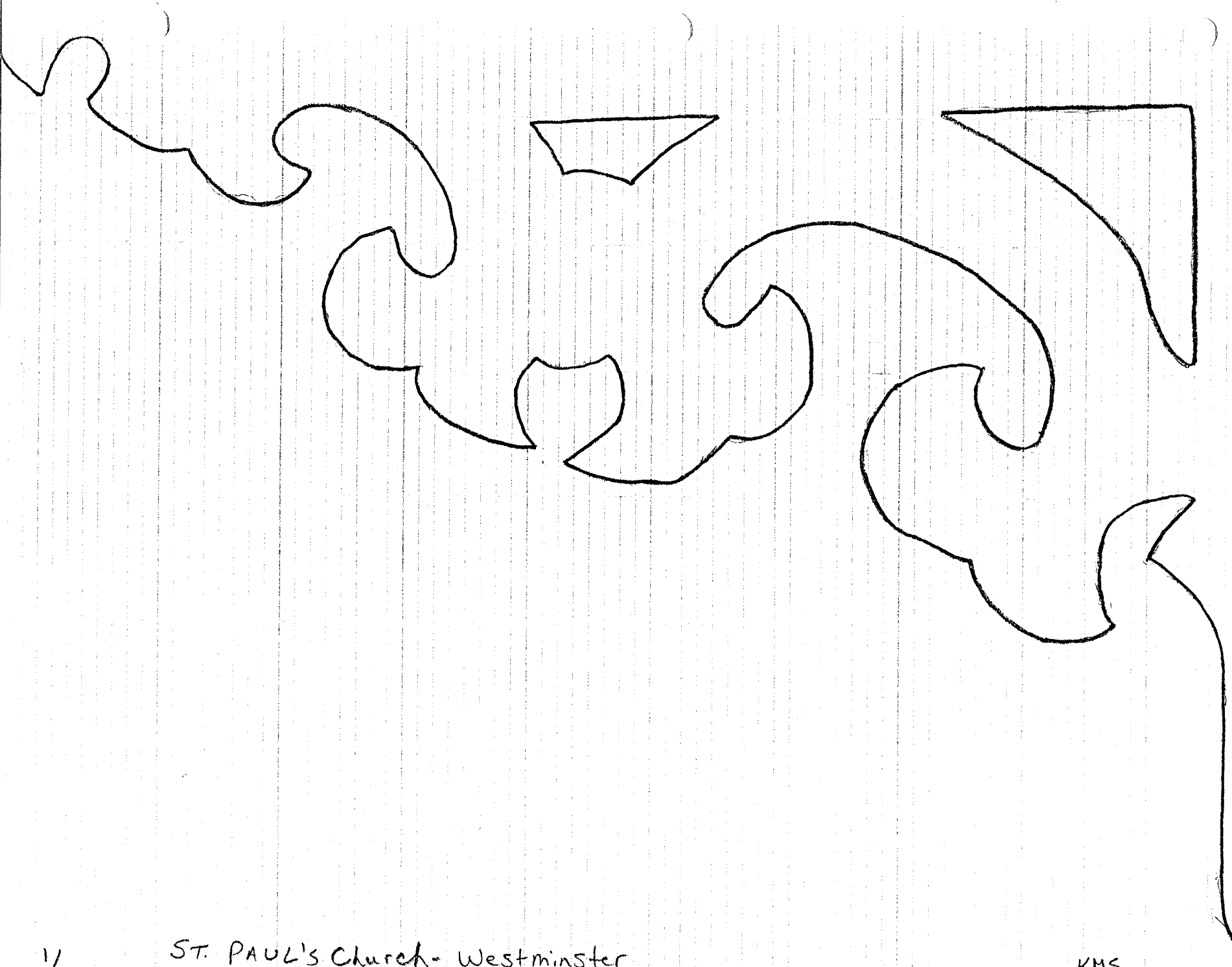
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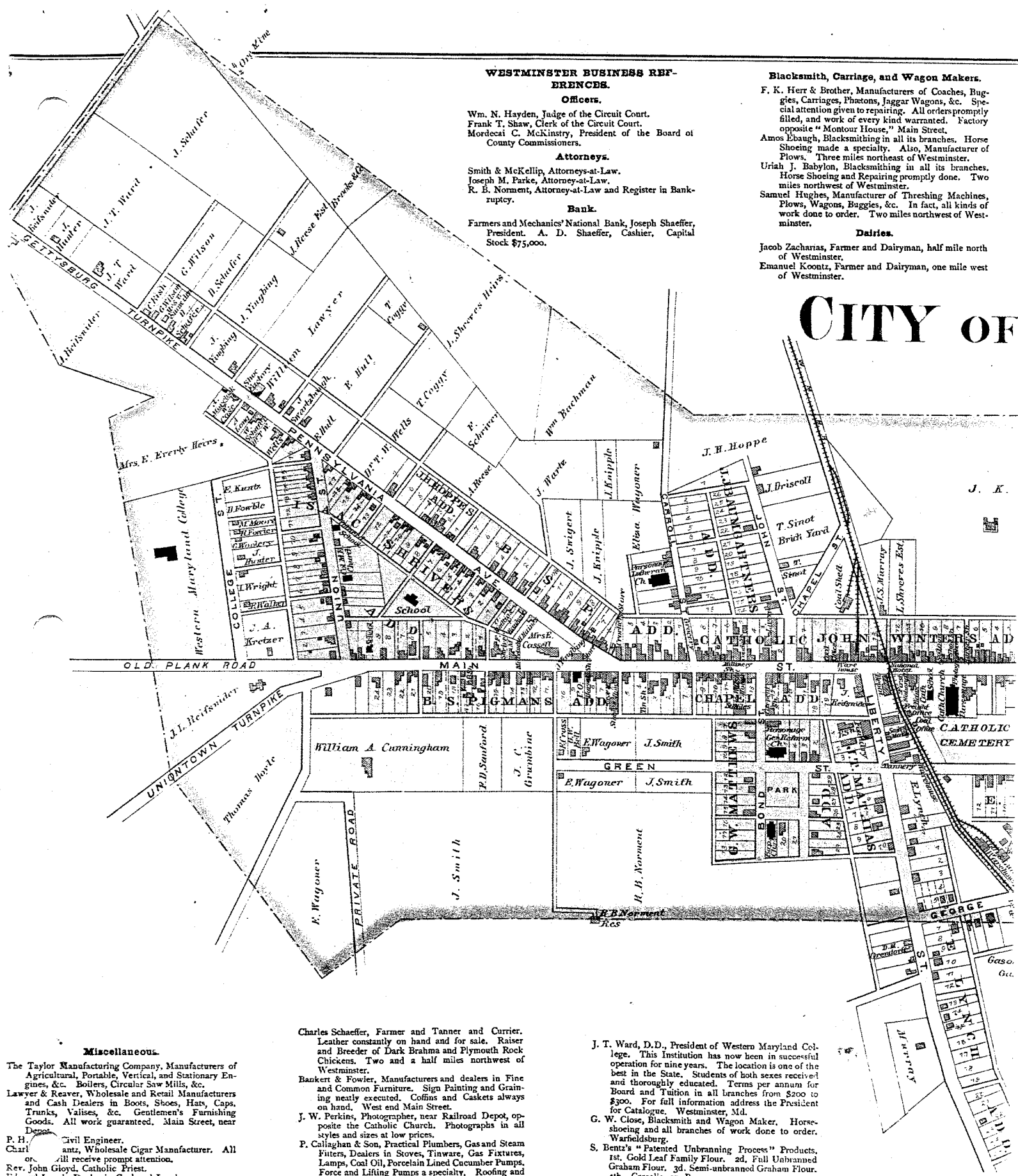


CAR-1572

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ST. PAUL'S Church - Westminster  
Stair Bracket

KMS  
25 Mar '98



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Frank T. Shaw, Clerk of the Circuit Court.  
Mordred C. McKinstry, President of the Board of  
County Commissioners.

#### Attorneys.

Smith & McKellip, Attorneys-at-Law.  
Joseph M. Parke, Attorney-at-Law.  
R. B. Norment, Attorney-at-Law and Register in Bank-  
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## CITY OF

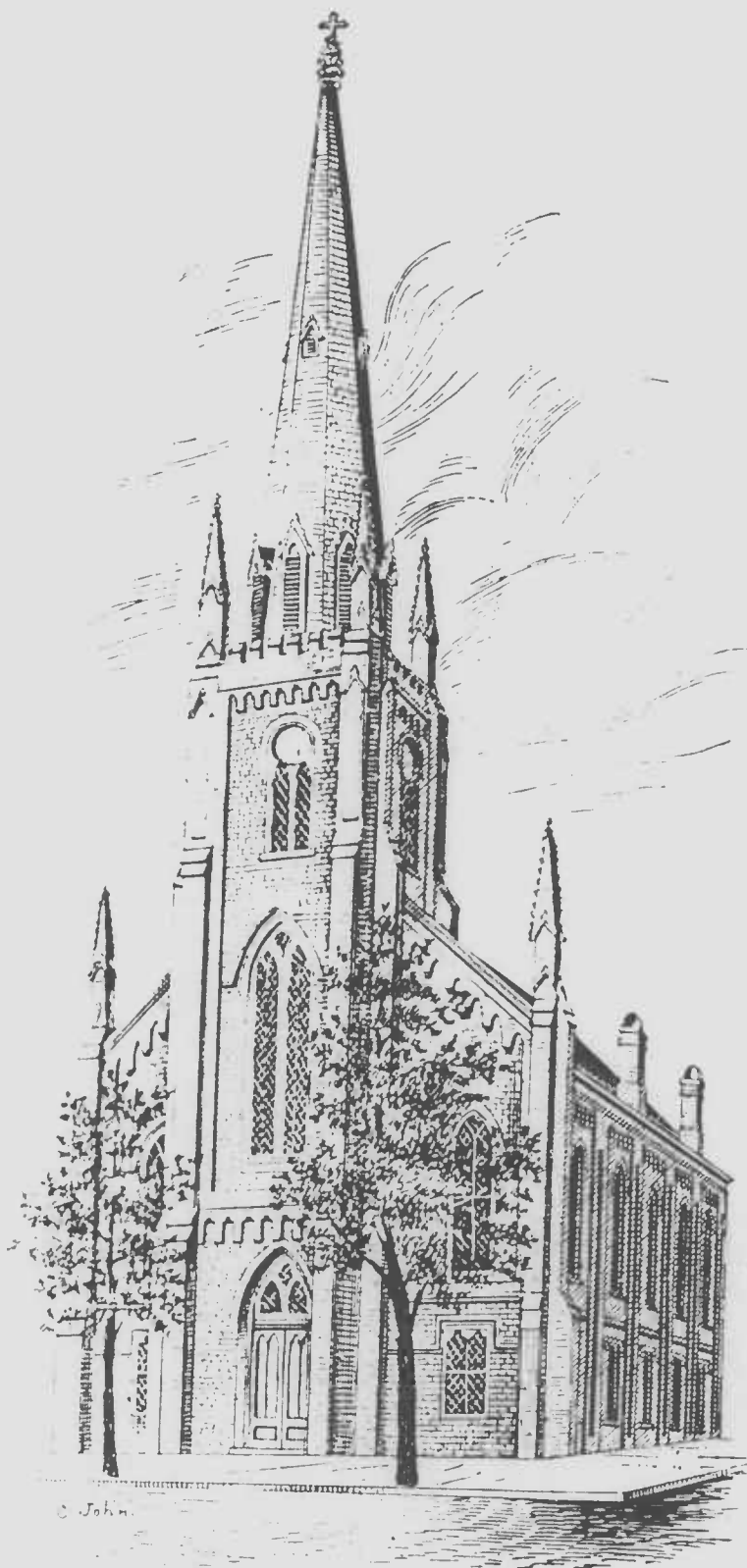
#### Miscellaneous.

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Bond & Green, Westminster  
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson Atlas, 1877

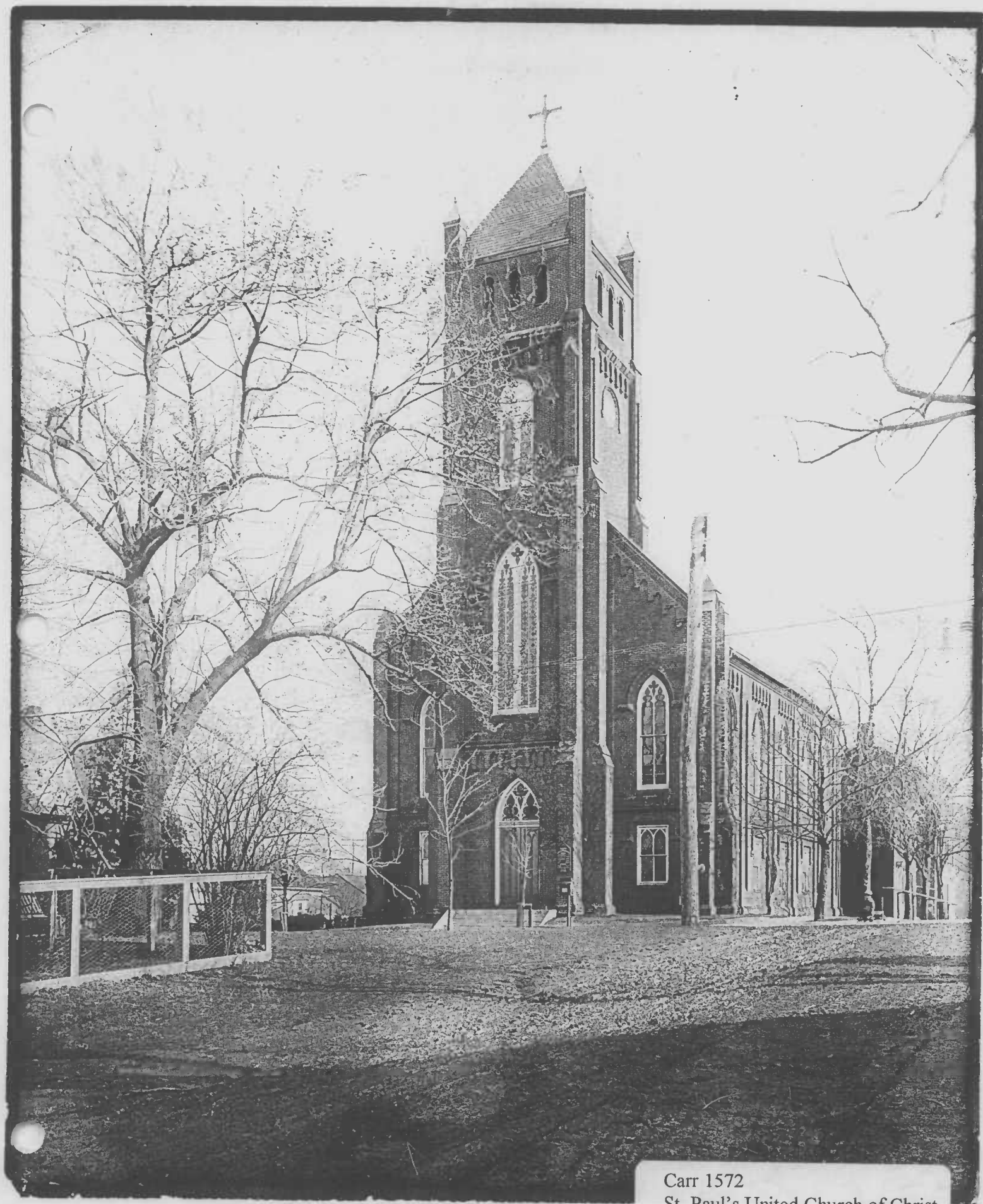


ST. PAUL'S REFORMED CHURCH.

Carr 1572  
St. Paul's German Reformed  
Bond & Green, Westminster

*Undated engraving*





Carr 1572  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Bond & Green Street  
Undated in Church Collection



Carr 1572  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Bond & Green Street  
Historic Photo, *Undated*  
In Church Collection

**BOND**

GREY

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RAIL ROAD

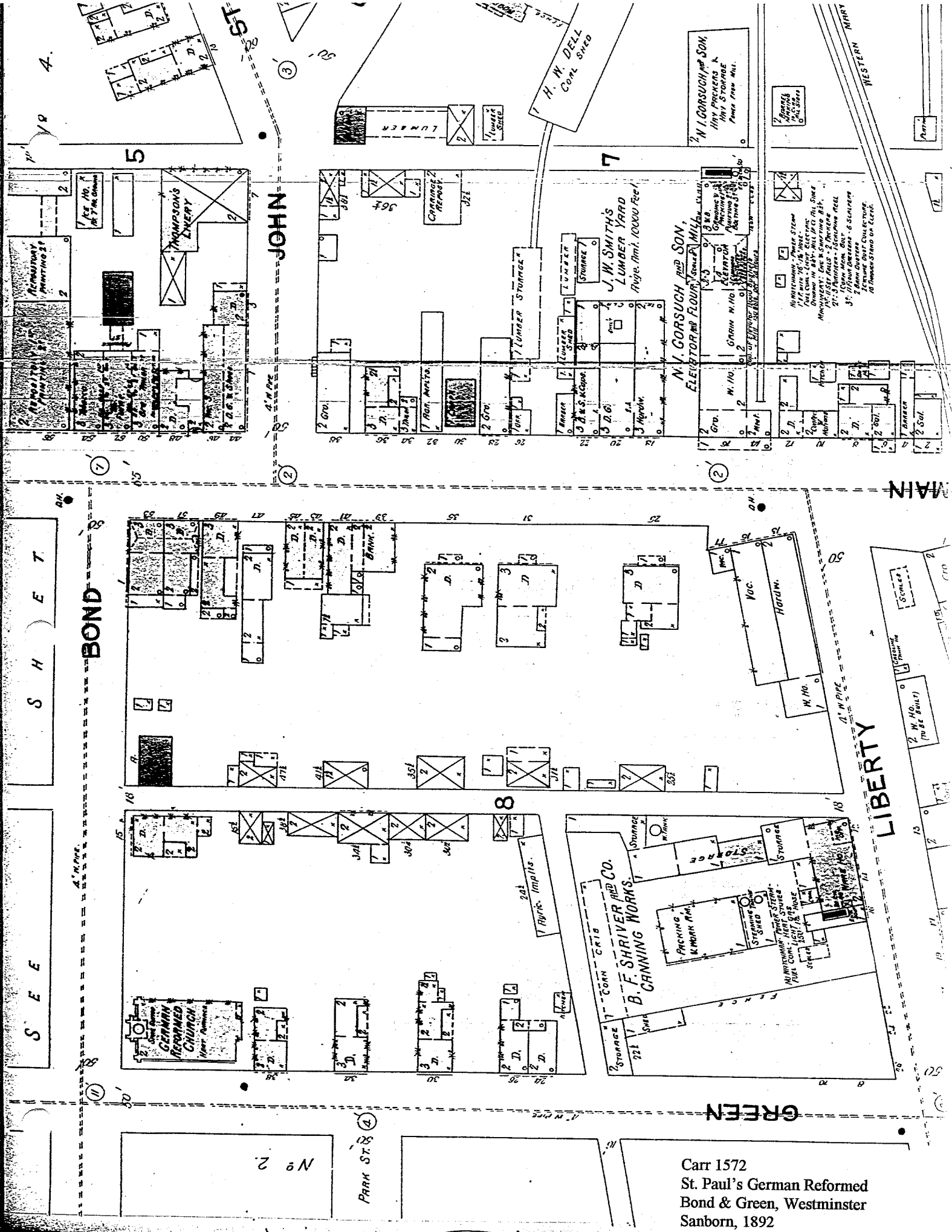
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St. Paul's German Reformed  
Bond & Green, Westminster

Sanborn Map, 1887

ST. JOHNS-  
PAROCHIAL  
SCHOOL

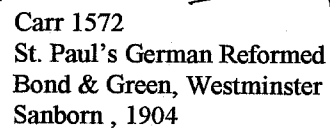
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Sanborn, 1892







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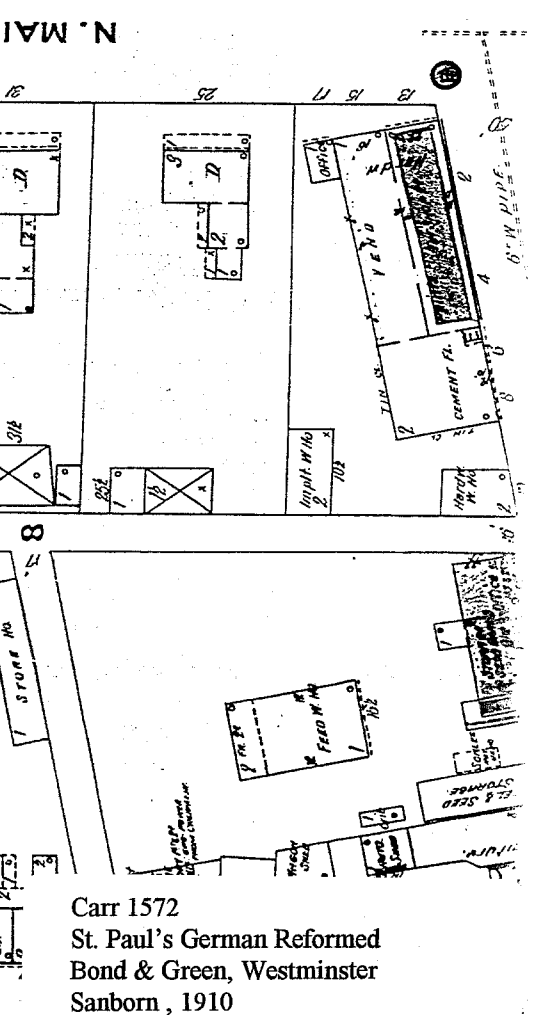
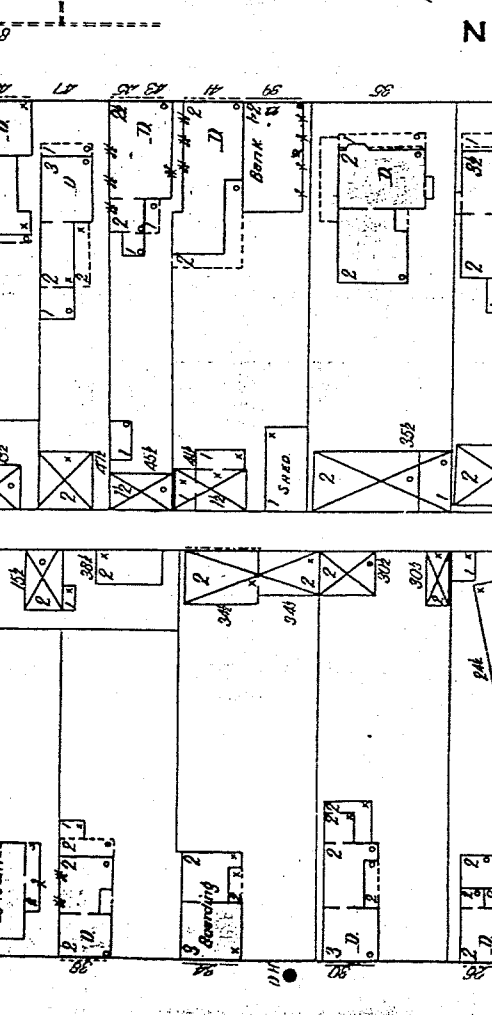
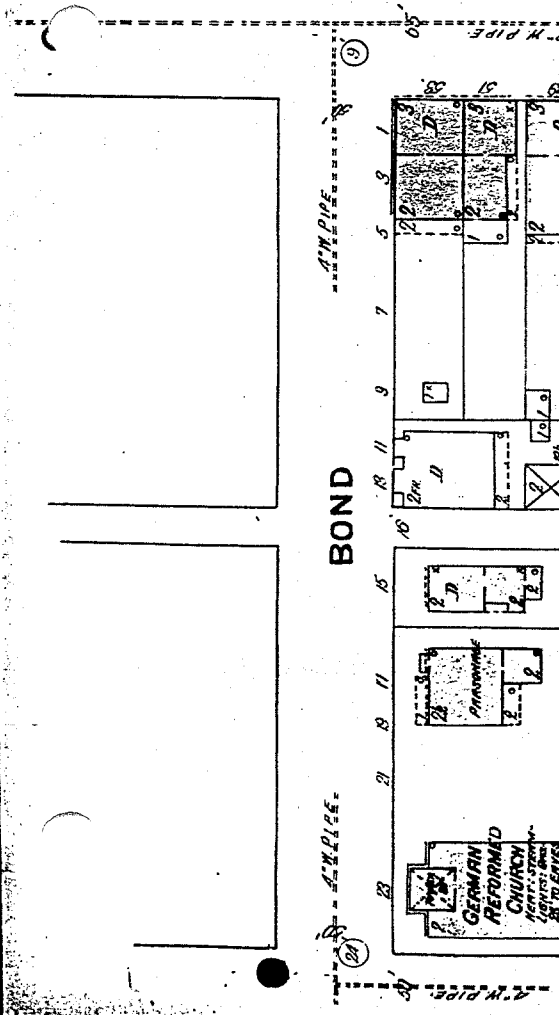
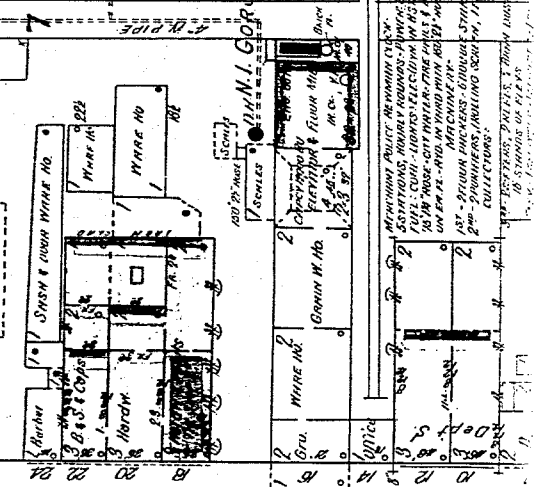
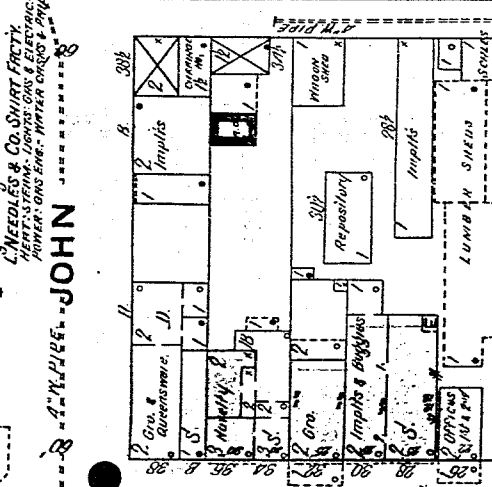
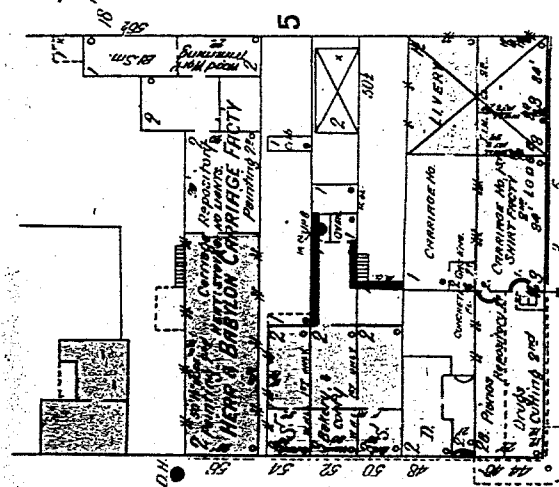
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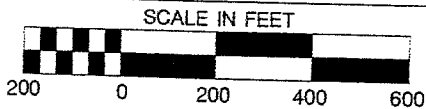
Carr 1572  
St. Paul's German Reformed  
Bond & Green, Westminster  
Sanborn, 1910







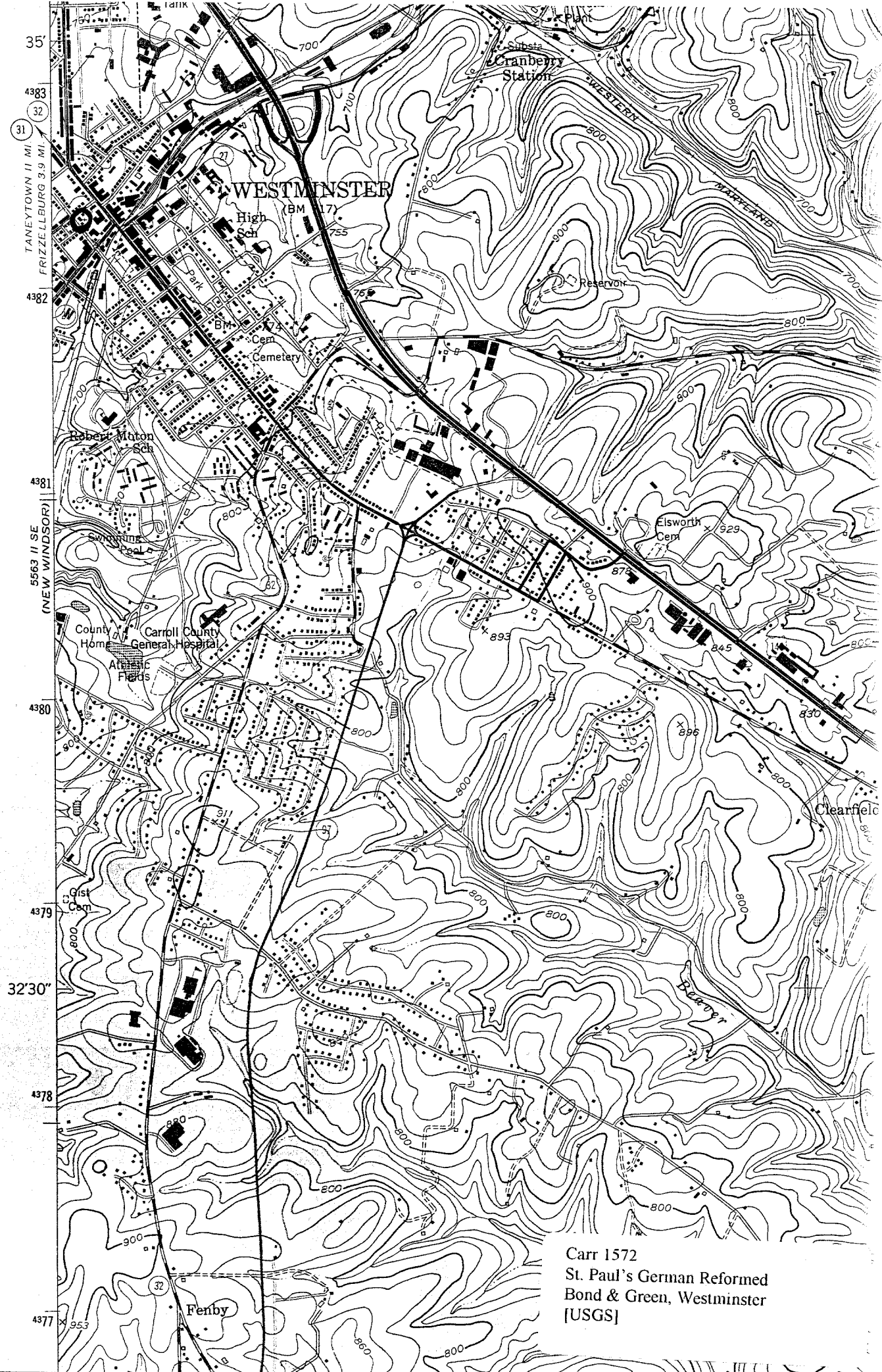
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COMPILED  
 MARYLAND OFFICE  
 PROPERTY MAP  
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 REVISED TO: DEC. 1981

Carr 1572  
 St. Paul's German Reformed  
 Bond & Green, Westminster  
 Assessments & Taxation Map . Parcel



Carr 1572  
St. Paul's German Reformed  
Bond & Green, Westminster  
[USGS]



St. Paul's Reformed Church

Bond & Green Sts.

Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

& Elev



ST. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Sherr STS.

Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
N & W Elms



St. Paul's

Carroll-1572

ST. Paul's Reformed Church

Bond & Green Sts

Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

NEW Elevs





Carr-1572

St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Green STS  
Westminster

Royer House - NW

Rm Mantel

Carrick County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Clark

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust



ST. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Chen Sts.

Westminster

Carrall County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Parsonage - Newell



St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts  
Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Ehart

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Lower story Vestibule & Atrium  
V.W.E



St. Paul's Reformed Church

Band & Green Sts

Westminster

Cannell County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

N & E Elevs





Carr 1572

St. Paul's Reformed Church

Bond & Green Sts

Westminster

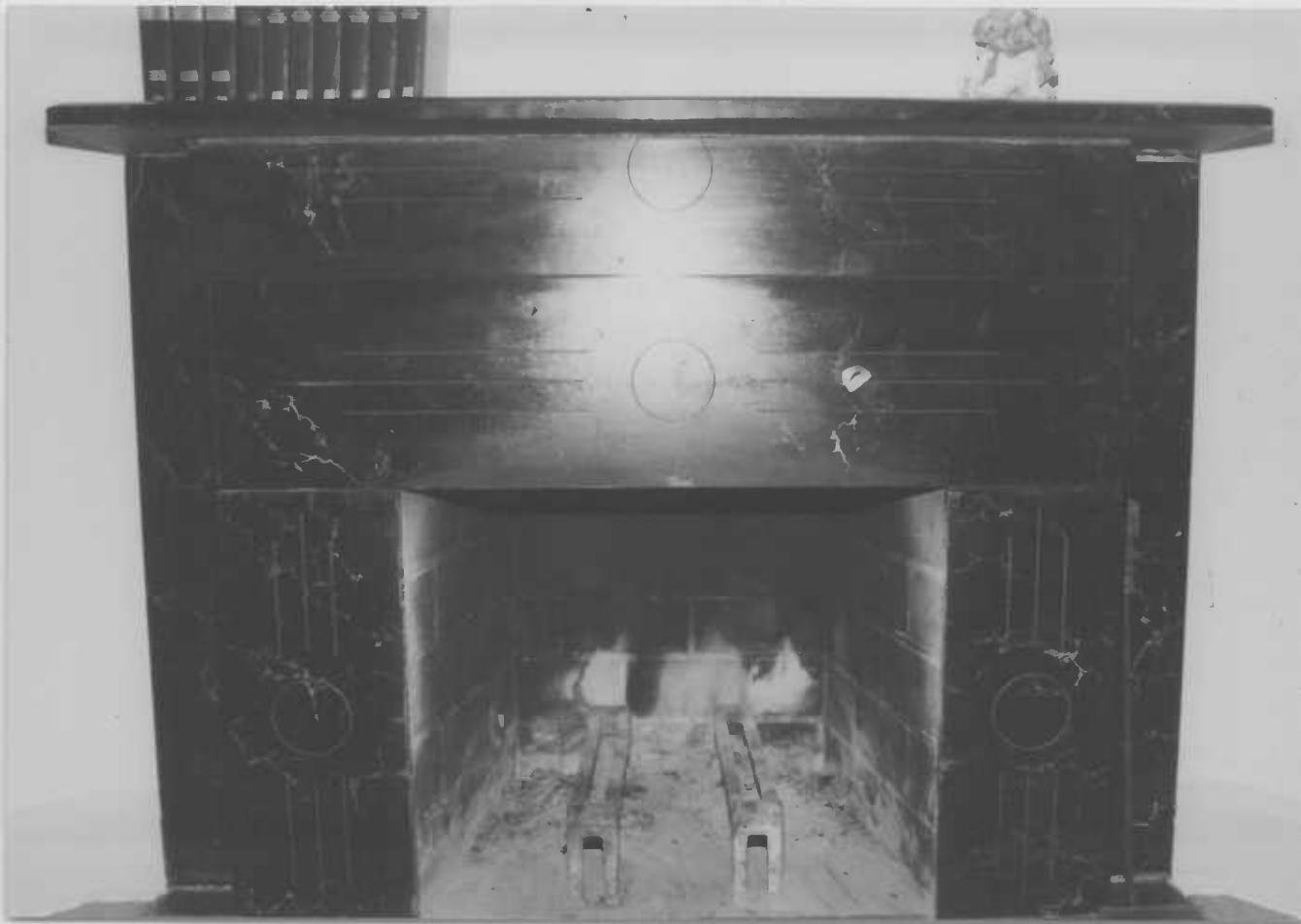
Carrick County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Thort

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Altar



Carr -1572

ST. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts

Westminster

Carroll County Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Thort

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Parsonage - NW

R.M. Mantel



Can-1572

St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Name - NW, S



Carr 1572

St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts, Westminster

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
Bell





Carr 1572

St. Pauls Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

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MR. LIPPY - Installation



St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

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Interior 1948



Can 1572

St. Pauls Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth H. Howard

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust  
Interior 1923

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St. Paul's during the war. 1930's

Can 1572

St. Pauls Reformed Church

Bond & Green Sts

Westminster, Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

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Early 1920's

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Carr - 1572

ST. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Chem Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

NegLOC: Maryland Historical Trust

Personage - N. Elev



St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Shen Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

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Pavonage - W. Elm



Carr 1572

St Pauls Reformed Church  
Bond & Green Sts

Carroll County Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1998

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Name - VW. SE



Carr -1572

St. Paul's Reformed Church  
Bond & Church Sts, Westminster  
Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 98

Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Roger House

W & S Elev

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